AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-92. (Canceled).

93. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by Formula VIII:

R1-X1-X2-X3-R2

wherein:

X1 is θ , Ala, Gly, β -Ala, Tyr, D-Tyr, Asp, or hydroxyacetyl;

X2 is 0, Ala-Gly-T4c-Pro, Ala-Sar-Hyp-Pro, Ala-6ring-, Ala-Asn, D-Asn-D-Ala,

D-Asn, γAbu, Gly, Ala, D-Ala, β-Ala, Pamh, Asn, or hydroxyacetyl;

X3 is Tyr, D-Tyr, Gly, Pamb, or Phe;

R1 is H or Ac;

R2 is OH, wherein the OH represents the C-terminal acid of X3; or

R2 is NH₂, wherein the NH₂ represents the C-terminal amide of X3;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

provided that X1 and X2 are not both 0; and wherein said compound has an amide formed with the C terminal carboxylic acid, or wherein the C terminal amino acid of said compound exists as the free carboxylic acid.

94. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr.

- 95. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X2 is Asn.
- 96. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X2 is Gly.
- 97. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr and X2 is Asn or Gly.
- 98. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 93, wherein X1 is hydroxyacetyl and R1 is H.
- 99. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr, X2 is Asn or Gly, X1 is hydroxyacetyl, and R1 is H.
 - 100. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 99, wherein X2 is Asn.
- 101. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 99, wherein R2 is OH, wherein the OH represent the C-terminal acid of X3.
- 102. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 99, wherein R2 is NH₂, wherein the NH₂ represents the C-terminal amide of X3.

- 103. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH₂, and Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 104. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein said compound is hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
 - 105. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
 - (a) a compound of claim 93 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and
 - (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 106. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein the compound selected from the group consisting of Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 107. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein said compound is hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 108. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein said composition is in a form suitable for oral or parenteral administration.
- 109. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 108, wherein said form suitable for oral administration is an enteric tablet.